

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 10-12 and 14 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 8, 9, 13 and 15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 4, 5 and 11, 12 and 14 are amended. Reconsideration based on the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Office Action indicates that claims 8 and 13 include allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 8 and claim 11 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 13 to expedite prosecution of the above-identified patent application.

I. Election of Claims 1-8 and 10-14 is Confirmed

Applicant confirms election of claims 1-8 and 10-14. Non-elected claims 9 and 15 are canceled.

II. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 1, 4, 5, 11 and 14 are amended to obviate the rejection. Regarding claim 14, it is believed that the structure, including a liquid crystal between two reduced strain plates made according to claim 1, is complete and definite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a). The Office Action also rejects claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,682,609 to Dockerty. Claims 1-5, 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Dockerty. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over Dockerty in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,536,581 to Shetterly et al.

("Shetterly"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 8 and 13, respectively, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 are now believed to be moot. The remaining dependent claims that depend from claim 1 are allowable for the reasons discussed above and for the additional features that they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7, 10-12 and 14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Petition for Three-Month Extension of Time

Date: December 1, 2003

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